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New Greenpeace Ship to Confront France on Nuclear Tests

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PARIS, Aug. 16 — The chairman of the Greenpeace environmental group said today that a new ship, much larger than the one sunk in New Zealand last month, would leave Amsterdam Sunday for the South Pacific to protest French nuclear tests in the region.

The new ship, called Greenpeace, is a 218-foot converted oceangoing tug bought earlier this year for \$500,000. It was originally acquired for a voyage to Antarctica.

"Whoever is responsible for the bombing of our ship should know that their attempt to stop our nonviolent opposition to nuclear weapons testing has not succeeded," the chairman, David McTaggart, said.

He added that the group was considering legal action against the French Government over the sinking of the ship, the Rainbow Warrior, in Auckland on July 10. France has not acknowledged any involvement in the at-

tack and an investigation, ordered by President François Mitterrand, is under way.

A scheduled meeting between Mr. Mitterrand and Mr. McTaggart this week was postponed by the Government until the investigation has been completed.

Speculation in French Press

Mr. McTaggart, a Canadian, said he was disappointed by what he called Mr. Mitterrand's refusal to see him. "He has agreed to see me after the inquiry, which in my opinion is too late," Mr. McTaggart said.

The Rainbow Warrior, which was to have led a flotilla of vessels, was sunk when two mines clamped to its hull went off. A crew member, Fernando Pereira, was killed.

French press accounts have speculated that the operation was carried out by agents of a French counterintelligence agency. The leaders of the operation, according to these reports, were two agents posing as husband and wife

and traveling with false Swiss passports. The woman is reported to be Dominique Prieur, 36 years old, a captain in the French Army and a counterintelligence specialist. The man, not yet named, was said to be an instructor at a secret navy frogman center on Corsica, which is known to be a training center for the agency's field teams.

A man and a woman have been arrested by the New Zealand police and are in jail in Auckland.

'France Did What It Had to Do'

In another development, a former head of French counterintelligence operations, Roger Wybot, said in an interview in the pro-Government newspaper *Le Matin* today that he had no doubt that France was involved in the Greenpeace incident. "France did what it had to do over there to put out of action people who were harming its interests," he said.

Also sought are three crew members of a sailboat chartered in Nouméa, New Caledonia, shortly before the at-

tack who are said to have been seen near Auckland at the time of the attack. The boat, the Ouvéa, was chartered through a Paris travel agency by a physician, Dr. Xavier Maniguet, who lives near Dieppe but has spent much of his career in the Pacific region. He is said to be a skilled diver, a parachutist and a flight instructor.

In interviews, Dr. Maniguet has said he chartered the Ouvéa for pleasure purposes and to sharpen his skills as a sailor. He said he did not know the three-man crew until he met them in Nouméa. He said they took him to northern New Zealand and he spent several days there skiing and relaxing.

The fact that the attack on the Rainbow Warrior took place during that time was coincidental, he said. He said that the Ouvéa later took him to Norfolk Island and that he made his way home to France.

The Ouvéa was inspected by New Zealand police on Norfolk and then released, presumably to return to New Caledonia. It has not been seen since. French press reports have said that the three men in its crew were also traveling on false passports and were actually French counterintelligence agents from the Corsican base.

International arrest warrants have been issued for the three men and for another woman, identified as Frédérique Bonlieu. Press reports have said she is an agent who associated herself with the Greenpeace group by posing as a marine archeologist and by offering to translate their documents destined for French areas.